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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/009,253	03/27/2002	Fernando J. de la Fuente Escandon	U 013769-5	8585
140	7590	11/19/2003		
LADAS & PARRY 26 WEST 61ST STREET NEW YORK, NY 10023			EXAMINER NGUYEN, TAI T	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2632	
DATE MAILED: 11/19/2003				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/009,253

Applicant(s)

ESCANDON, FERNANDO J. DE
LA FUENTE

Examiner

Tai T. Nguyen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) Z.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.
3. Claim 1 recites the limitation "the braking system" in line 9. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.
4. Claim 2 recites the limitation "the braking parameters" in line 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.
5. Claim 3 recites the limitation "the initial rate" in line 3. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.
6. Claim 4 recites the limitation "the vehicle speed signal" in line 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.
7. Claim 4 recites the limitation "the instantaneous speed" in line 3. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.
8. Claim 5 recites the limitation "the signal" in line 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

9. Claim 8 recites the limitation "the brake pedal" in line 3. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

10. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

11. Claims 1-5 and 6-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tonkin (US 5,838,259) in view of King (US 6,426,706).

Regarding claim 1, Tonkin discloses a braking indicator (2, figures 1-2) of the lighting type located in the rear part of a vehicle (101, figure 14), comprising:

an electronic controller (3, figure 4) processing actual speed signal and vehicle's acceleration/deceleration signals of the vehicle provided from an accelerometer (32) and an opto-switch (34, figures 3-4; col. 7, line 7 through col. 8, line 35), and a segment of lights (2) which through proportionally between the vehicle's actual loss of speed and the number of lights (10-17; col. 4, line 41 through col. 5, line 55) and the rate at which they progressively light up conveys rapid information to other drivers of a tailgate vehicle (103, figure 14) on the actual loss of speed as a result of action on a brake system (81, figure 15; col. 12, line 34 through col. 14, line 19).

Tonkin discloses a tachometer can be used in an alternative to sensing vehicle speed (col. 19, lines 34-48) but fails to disclose an engine revolutions signal being

processed by the electronic controller. King teaches a safety warning device (20, figure 1) mounted in a vehicle (21) has a microprocessor (24) for receiving signals from an accelerometer (40) and an engine sensor (50), wherein safety warning device (20) provides a fast braking situation via a display (42; col. 2, lines 1-30). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize the engine sensor as taught by King in the system as disclosed by Tonkin for the purpose of measuring the engine revolutions of the vehicle in order to provide a corrected indicative vehicle speed reducing information to the tailgate vehicle the deceleration of the leading vehicle.

Regarding claims 2-3, as shown in figures 1-2, Tonkin discloses the braking indicator (2) comprises a segment divided into two equal parts with a fixed number of lights (10, 12, 14, 16 and 11, 13, 15, 17) which converge from the center thereof when in operation, wherein the number of lights which light up and the rate at which they light up depends on the initial rate and the pressure applied on a braking switch (80, figure 3).

Regarding claim 4, Tonkin discloses a microprocessor processes the vehicle speed signal when the braking switch is activated in order to provide the number of lights lighting up progressively as the speed of the vehicle changes while braking (col. 4, line 60 though col. 5, line 32).

Regarding claim 6, as shown in figure 26, Tonkin discloses an ambient light sensing circuit (132) to determine the average ambient light in order to enable the microprocessor to regulate the intensity of the lights (10-17; col. 18, lines 13-22).

Regarding claim 7, Tonkin discloses the instant claimed invention except for: a switch for disconnecting the environmental light sensor and apply maximum brightness to the lights which light up. Tonkin discloses a regulating circuit (103) for reducing the intensity of the lights (10-17) under a low light level condition in order to prevent the driver of a following vehicle from being dazzled by the brightness of the light (col. 18, lines 17-22). It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a switch to cut off power being supplied to the environmental light sensor for the purpose of facilitating the maximum brightness of the light but not bright over the predetermined level in order to prevent the dazzling by the observer.

Regarding claim 8, Tonkin discloses a delay means (138, figure 26) for switching off a specific delay when force cease to be applied to the brake pedal (col. 19, lines 10-13).

Regarding claim 9, Tonkin discloses the segment of lights (2) which lights up in variable way may incorporate a zone that always lights up independently of braking parameter (figures 16-17; col. 13, lines 20-65).

12. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tonkin and King as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Blomenkamp et al. (US 3,634,792).

Regarding claim 5, Tonkin discloses the instant claimed invention except for: a derivative circuit for providing a triggering signal to the microprocessor from the motor

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revolution signal. Blomenkamp et al. teach a system for automatically sensing and indicating the acceleration/deceleration of a vehicle including a drive shaft sensor (11) for monitoring a rotation of the shaft, and a differentiator circuit (17) for differentiate a signal provided from the sensor to before activate a signal light (15), figure 2; col. 3, line 28 through col. 4, line 10), wherein the differentiator circuit can be replaced by a deviation circuit (figure 20, col. 12, lines 69-75). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the derivative circuit as taught by Blomenkamp et al. in the system as disclosed by Tomkin, as modified, for the purpose of providing an instantaneous engine revolution peak signal when the vehicle is stationary.

Conclusion

13. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Smith (US 6,525,652), Robert (US 6,020,814), Chen (US 5,818,332), Miller (US 4,959,634), and Meinershagen (US 4,556,862).

14. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tai T. Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 308-0160. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 7:30am-5:00pm..

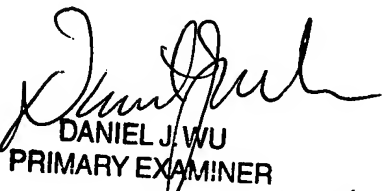
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel J. Wu, can be reached at (703) 308-6730. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4700.

November 5, 2003
Tai T. Nguyen
Examiner
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DANIEL J. WU
PRIMARY EXAMINER
11/16/03